

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application based on the following remarks are respectfully requested. Claims 1-3, 13, and 17 have been amended. Support for the amendments may be found throughout the specification, for example at page 31, lines 13-15. No new matter has been added. Upon entry of the above amendments, claims 1-20, as amended, will be pending.

Claims 2 and 3 have been objected to for informalities. The amendments to the claims are believed to address these informalities.

Issues with IDS and Continuity

The Examiner has identified several issues with the IDS submitted February 18, 2004. In addition, the Examiner has identified an issue with Applicants continuity claim. Submitted herewith is a petition to correct Applicants' claim of priority under 37 C.F.R. §1.78 (a)(3). The amendment to the specification submitted herewith adds the cross-reference required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.78. In addition, corrected form 1449's are attached herewith. The correction to the priority claim will provide access to the references which were previously submitted in the parent cases to this application. Accordingly, no additional copies of the references are believed to be needed.

Rejections

Claims 1-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by US 2002/0106584 to Lawton *et al* ("the '584 application"). Claims 1-7, 9 and 12-16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by WO 00/03300 to Lawton *et al* ("WO '300"). Claims 1, 7-10, 13-14, and 17-19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated WO 97/42549 ("WO '549") as evidenced by U.S. Patent 4,418,112 to Mirle *et al*. ("Mirle") and U.S. Patent 5,500,040 to Fujinami ("Fujinami"). Claims 1-4, 12-13, 15-18, and 20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by WO 98/36323 (WO '323). Claims 1-3, 5-6, 8-11, and 13-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U. S. Patent 5,476,748 to Steinmann ("Steinmann")

With respect to the § 102(b) rejection in view of the '584 application, Applicants correction of the claim of priority renders this rejection moot. For at least this reason, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

With respect to the § 102(b) rejection in view of WO '300, the Examiner has asserted that the claims lack support in the parent applications. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are entitled to the filing date of the parent application U.S. Ser. No. 09/113,271, filed Jul. 10, 1998, whether amended or not and that WO '300 is not prior art to either the previously pending claims or the claims as amended. Specifically, the amendments submitted herein for purposes of addressing other art cited below are not a representation that Applicants agree with the Examiner's assertion. Accordingly, as WO '300 is not prior art, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.


With respect to the rejections in view of WO '549, WO '323 and Steinmann, the amendments to the claims are believed to address these rejections. Specifically none of these references teach or suggest a ratio of epoxy equivalents to hydroxy equivalents in the composition is in the range of from 1.5 to 3.8. For at least this reason, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections.

Therefore, all objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney for Applicants at the telephone number indicated below in order to expeditiously resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment: Corrected Form PTO-1449 (2 pages)